



**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #23
September 1, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- No change in human H5N1 influenza activity were posted this week by WHO. The cumulative count stands at 241 cases and 141 deaths.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Deputy Commissioner and State Emergency Planner will brief the Secure Commonwealth Panel on Pandemic Flu preparation and issues this week.
- **October PanFlu Exercise.** Conducted Mid-term Exercise Planning Conference. VDEM / VEOC and VDH representatives met to discuss EOC scope of participation.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report

- **Alexandria**
 - Completed draft plan (with all Subject Matter Group appendices). Submitted to all Subject Matter Group Chairs and to Emergency Management in order is to look for inter-relationships among the Subject Matter Groups' materials, and to note where additions need to be made (e.g. "...does the Isolation and Quarantine group see something in the Medical Surge group appendix that has implications for isolation and quarantine?).
- **Chesterfield**
 - Local Advisory Group for Powhatan met; discussed isolation and quarantine, methods of dispensing, explored community education options.
 - Planner contacted Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce to discuss provide mini-training sessions on PanFlu planning for small businesses. A presentation to the Board is also being planned for October or November.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Goochland Health Office staff had meeting with their LEPC sub-committee on Pandemic Flu planning.
 - Continued the coordination for the Goochland Schools hand cleanliness program.
 - Provided PanFlu video to the Hanover School nurses
 - Discussed Pandemic flu planning and staffing with Hanover Public Utilities managers.
 - Interviewed for the Pandemic Flu Coordinator for the District.
- **Crater**
 - Distributed 100 infection control kits with PanFlu and seasonal flu messages to children at the back to school event. An additional 30 kits were distributed to children through CHIP and Resource Mothers.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Planner conducted a 3-hour Dickenson County stakeholder meeting with attendees representing first responders and government officials to discuss the development of local county pandemic influenza plan with an emphasis on local concerns and local community preparedness.
 - Planner facilitated efforts for local county pandemic influenza meeting in Russell County scheduled for mid September.
 - Planner drafted master schedule of events list for the Pandemic Influenza Exercise.
 - Planner facilitated completion of the People Inc. MOA to assist the CPHD with filling the PanFlu temporary clerical position.
- **Eastern Shore**
 - Presentation for pandemic influenza planning for businesses given at Lockheed-Martin in Wallops Island, VA by Emergency Planner.
 - PanFlu presentation made to Rotary Club and ES Rural Health Nurses by health educator.
 - Completed procurement of PanFlu supplies from Phase I monies
 - Incorporating PanFlu DVD and presentation into CERT classes taught by Emergency Planner.
- **Fairfax**

- Department. hosted a Child Care Summit, which was attended by over 300 child care providers.
- Director led the initial meeting of a newly created Human Services Community Partner Organization Planning group that is organizing a December 1st PanFlu Summit for partners of the county Human Services Agencies.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist presented Pandemic Flu information to Henrico County Public School Nurses and Clinic Attendants.
 - Planner continued planning and coordination for Local Mass Vaccination exercise in November.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Epidemiologist gave a presentation "Influenza Surveillance" in Winchester at the District's Annual Reportable Disease Update. The audience included local physicians, infection control staff, public health staff, and others. A local family practice physician who is a Sentinel Physician for VDH Influenza surveillance; also gave a presentation on how he performs his Sentinel Physician duties and supports the efforts of public health. At least one physician has come forward as a result of this expressing interest in serving as a Sentinel Physician for VDH.
- **Mt. Rogers**
 - Planner / Epi gave presentation on Pandemic influenza preparedness to Red Cross partners. Also provided them with the VDH PanFlu video
 - Planner provided training to Resident Assistants at Emory & Henry College on pandemic influenza and personal preparedness
 - Pandemic influenza video provided to members of Wythe County LEPC.
 - Pandemic influenza planning session conducted with Bland County School system. Planner assisting with writing the plan for school system.
- **New River**
 - Epidemiologist and Planner continue to assist local government and colleges / universities with preparedness planning.
 - Continuing dialogue with the school systems' superintendents and coordinating/scheduling workshops for permanent / substitute staff
 - Scheduling meetings / presentations with local ministerial associations.
 - Initiating dialogue about special needs populations with local social services and Red Cross chapters
 - Selected staff and Regional Planner/Trainer working to notify and re-register attendees for the Pandemic Flu Summit at VA Tech which is re-scheduled for October 31, 2006.
- **Norfolk**
 - The Norfolk Local Emergency Planning Committee met and reviewed progress on community and organizational awareness, and continuity of operation planning. Further workshops on COOP under pandemic influenza conditions are planned for September.
 - Planned with Norfolk Public Schools for distribution of educational materials to one elementary grade in late September timeframe.
 - Prepared laminated "Cover Your Cough" posters for distribution to city and school buildings throughout the city.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator presented information to 1st Baptist Church in Gretna. Twenty eight people attended.

- Epidemiologist and Pandemic Influenza Educator, along with the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee - School Subcommittee Chair, held a meeting with local daycare owners to present Pandemic Influenza information. Only a few attended the meeting, however, upon hearing the information, they all agreed that this is very important information and agreed to contact their counterparts at other daycares and home cares to encourage them to attend a Pandemic Influenza presentation for daycares and home cares on 2 October 2006.
- “Cover Your Cough” and “Wash Your Hands” poster have been posted in clinic restrooms at the district Health Departments.
- In preparation for “Pandemic Flu Awareness Week”, September 10-16 2006, local businesses and churches have been contacted to display one of three messages about Pandemic Influenza preparedness on their marquee during the week. The purpose for this is to send a unified message throughout our community during the entire week. So far eight organizations have agreed and many more will be contacted to request participation. The three messages to choose from are as follows:
 - September is National Preparedness Month
 - Pandemic Influenza
 - Get Informed-Get Prepared
- In preparation for “Pandemic Flu Awareness Week,” local churches are being contacted to request that the “Disaster Supply Kit” list be included in their church bulletin that they will hand out on Sunday, 10 September 2006. So far 18 churches have agreed.
- The Goodyear manufacturing plant will be distributing “goody” bags containing educational materials, hand sanitizer wipes and tissues to all of their employees during the Awareness Week. They will raffle four First Aid Kits, 4 in 1 Crank Flashlights, FM radios, alarm sirens, and cell phone chargers. Their marquee will display one of the Pandemic Influenza messages, and they will run an article explaining bird flu and the purpose of the Awareness Week in The Communicator, the weekly news letter at Goodyear. This will all occur September 12 & 13. Goodyear employs about 2400 people.
- Other projects for “Pandemic Flu Awareness Week” are underway such as media releases, newspaper advertisements, and public service announcements. A logo for Pandemic Flu Awareness is being designed so that organizations and businesses can put it on their website and it will link to www.pandemicflu.gov.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany County**
 - Conducted planning visits to flu vaccine dispensing drill sites.
 - Met with Botetourt County EM regarding PanFlu preparedness efforts.
 - Polled all EMs in both districts to determine a need for a planning "calibration" meeting whereby everyone is briefed on where they are in the planning process and identify any needs as well as best practices. As a result, planning above meeting at the request of EMs.
- **Southside**
 - Health Director and Planner attended the organizing meeting for the Brunswick County LEPC.
 - VDEM region reps, reported on After Action Report from the July 11 Tabletop; group discussed next actions.
 - Planner presented a PanFlu presentation to “LEPC” members and decided to have pandemic meeting after the LEPC meeting or together since this is the same group of people.

- Epi, senior nurse and PanFlu Trainer conducted a PanFlu and Infectious disease control to the Mecklenburg school nurses, guidance counselors, HE and PE teachers.
- Epi met with the Mecklenburg school nurses to discuss surveillance and methods to capture reliable ILI numbers. .
- PanFlu Trainer conducted PanFlu presentations to MRC volunteers at Community Memorial Health center and Halifax Regional Hospital.
- Planner contacted the circuit court clerks and Commonwealth Attorneys for a good date to present pandemic flu video and Isolation and Quarantine information.
- PanFlu Admin. Assistant contacted local ministers to arrange presentations. Planner Or PanFlu Trainer will follow-up and set-up dates.
- PanFlu Trainer met with STIP company rep to inventory the STIP, a mobile self-contained Emergency room for possible use in triage for large events.
- Halifax Regional Hospital will organize teams from area hospitals, MRC units, HD staff to begin training on setting-up and using the mobile Emergency room.
- Planner, school nurses and MRC coordinator discussed the possibility of having county-wide meetings to develop community outreach for Flu and PanFlu education.
- Contact database is “complete” and will be shared with district staff and local EOC and county administrations next week.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
 - District held second PanFlu coordinating council meeting.
 - Director and Planner attended local emergency services committee where Director gave avian flu and PanFlu overview.
 - Completed Phase I purchasing.
 - Planner presented PanFlu update at local LEPC meeting.
 - District mailed pandemic influenza information and educational materials to 1100+ local physicians.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Planner made a presentation to the Stuart, Va. Rotary Club.
 - Martinsville/Henry County Pan Flu Planning Group met and decided that all groups would start individual plans for their own groups and bring back for comparison and questions for the District Planner and Epidemiologist attended.
 - Epidemiologist made presentation to Franklin County. School nurses.
 - Planner attended LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) for Martinsville City/ Henry Co., to brief on PanFlu. Planner was voted as Vice-Chairman of LEPC.
 - PanFlu Brochures were distributed to Piedmont Governor’s School, with a tentative schedule created for a presentation at the school, for late September. Brochures were also submitted to Stone Ambulance Service for distribution.
 - Planner attended the Martinsville/Henry Co. Non-Profit Leadership Meeting, to make a presentation.
 - Epidemiologist made a PanFlu presentation at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital Medical Office Building, for physicians and hospital staff.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Planner consulted with Human Resources Analyst for the City of Suffolk to conduct 2 PanFlu briefings for: 1) Department Heads 2) Staff.
 - Hired MRC coordinator.
 - Completed NIMS Training for entire WTHD. 100% NIMS compliant.
 - Met with key members of staff for a brainstorming session for mass vaccination exercise.